

Message Text

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20/43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19 IO-14

AID-20 IGA-02 DRC-01 /170 W

----- 005832

O 021040Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7147

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AM*MBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL UDORN

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN

SECDEF

DIA

USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC

CINCPACAF

CDR USSAG NKP

CDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN

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US*AO SAIGON

COMUSMACTHAI

DODSPE REP BANKGOK

DODSPECREP NKP

354 TFW KORAT
CHSPECACTS BANGKOK
CDR JCRC NKP
7ACCS KORAT
432 TFW UDORN
8 TFW UBON
56 SOW NKP
388 TFW KORAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0016

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR TAGS INFORMATION

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PGOV, PFOR, PINT, ECON, LA
SUBJECT: LAO WEEKLY SITREP - JANUARY 2, 1974

REF: VIENTIANE 8701

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD; 13 AF ADVON, 432 TFW, 56 SOW,
388 TFW, 354 *FW AND 8 TFW FOR DO/DI; MACTHAI FOR J-2
AND PAO

BEGIN SUMMARY- THE RLG AND *PF ENDED 1973 ON NOTE OF
COMPROMISE WITHIN THE JOINT CENTRAL COMMITTEE, RESOLVING
DISPUTE OVER AGENDA PRECEDENCE. WHILE SOUPHANOUVONG TOOK
HARD LINE IN HIS RESPONSE TO SOUVANNA, THE PRIME MINISTER
STRUCK AN OPTIMISTIC NOTE IN HIS YEAR-END MESSAGE WHICH
PRAISED THE VIENTIANE ACCORD AND THE RESULTANT CEASEFIRE
IN LAOS. THE MILITARY SITUATION REMAINED CALM DURING THE
WEEK, WITH ONLY 5 INCIDENTS RECORDED NATIONWIDE. THE
ECONOMIC SITUATION DID NOT CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY DURING
REPORTING PERIOD. END SUMMARY

I. IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT

A. JOINT CENTRAL COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENTS
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FULL JCCIA DELEGATIONS MET FOR MORE THAN THREE
HOURS DECEMBER 26 AND REACHED COMPROMISE ON RLG DEMAND
TO ADD PROBLEMS OF CEASEFIRE IMPLEMENTATION AND ICC
REACTIVATION TO PREVIOUSLY-AGREED AGENDA. RLG AGREED
TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM POSITIONS WHICH LPF CLAIMED
ENCIRCLED THEIR BIVOUAC AREAS IN LUANG PRABANG. SO FAR
AS WE KNOW, TROOPS HAVE NOT BEEN WITHDRAWN AS OF JANUARY
2, AND LPF PROPAGANDA MILL IS STILL VOCIFEROUSLY PRO-
TESTING RLG " PROVOCATIONS."

SOUPHANOUVONG DISPATCHED (DECEMBER 21) A LONG
AND TOUGH REPLY (RECEIVED DECEMBER 26) TO SOUVANNA'S
DECEMBER 5 REQUEST THAT SOUPHANOUVONG EXPEDITE NEGOTIA-

TIONS AND SEND A PLENIPOTENTIARY REPRESENTATIVE TO VIENTIANE. HIS LETTER REFUTED SOUVANNA'S CLAIM THAT THE ICC AND FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN VIENTIANE ADEQUATELY GUARANTEED LPF SECURITY; AS EXPECTED, IT EMPHASIZED NEED FOR JCCIA TO FOCUS ON NEUTRALIZATION QUESTION. (LPF SPOKESMAN PHAO BOUNNAPHOL CALLED NEUTRALIZATION "INDISPENSIBLE CONDITION TO FORMATION OF NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT.") SOUPHANOUVONG DID, HOWEVER, APPOINT PHOUN SIPRASEUTH TO DISCUSS WITH SOUVANNA "IMPORTANT QUESTIONS OUTSIDE JCCIA JURISDICTION."

IT WAS MUTUALLY AGREED TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING TOPICS AT SUBSEQUENT JCCIA MEETINGS: (1) ORGANIZATION OF THE JOINT POLICE FORCE; (2) EQUIPMENT AND PLACEMENT OF EACH SIDE'S PROTECTIVE MILITARY BATTALIONS; (3) REVIEW OF CURRENT CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS TO DEVELOP MEANS OF PREVENTING CLASHES AND DETERMINE THE ICC ROLE; (4) RESUPPLY OF LPF FORCES IN TWO CAPITALS; AND (5) ADMINISTRATION OF THE TWIN CAPITALS. (COMMENT: DESPITE RECALCITRANT TONE OF SOUPHANOUVONG'S LETTER, ATMOSPHERE IN VIENTIANE IMPROVED DURING THE WEEK. DECISION OF BOTH SIDES TO AVOID CONFRONTATION OVER RLG DEMAND TO GIVE AGENDA PRECEDENCE TO CEASEFIRE IMPLEMENTATION AND ICC REACTIVATION IS ENCOURAGING. AT SAME TIME, QUESTION OF NEUTRALIZATION OF LUANG PRABANG AND VIENTIANE WILL STILL HAVE TO BE RESOLVED IN DETAIL BEFORE PARTIES CAN DISCUSS FORMATION OF NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT. ANOTHER ENCOURAGING SIGN

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IS THAT CHAIRMEN OF TWO DELEGATIONS MET DECEMBER .28 TO DISCUSS, ACCORDING TO LPF SPOKESMAN, "PROVISION OF BETTER HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES TO LPF IN BOTH CAPITALS." SOUVANNA ALSO MET WITH PHOUN SIPRASEUTH ON THE SAME DAY.

B. RLG ACTIVITIES

PRIME MINISTER'S NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE EMPHASIZED PEACEFUL SITUATION IN LAOS IN CONTRAST TO OTHER INDO-CHINA NATIONS, AND OPTIMISTICALLY PREDICTED THAT THE SITUATION IN LAOS WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP FAVORABLY.

II. SECURITY SITUATION

A. THE SECURITY SITUATION IN LAOS REMAINED QUIET DURING THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 2, WITH ONE MAJOR AND FOU* MINOR INCIDENTS TAKING PLACE. THE MAJOR INCIDENT OCCURRED 20 KMS EAST OF KENGKOK (MR-III) ON DECEMBER *6 AND INVOLVED TWO PL COMPANIES SUPPORTED BY MOR*AR FIRE ATTACKING ELEMENTS OF A FAR BATTALION. NO CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED.

B. ON DECEMBER 30, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE
CEASEFIRE, FOUR NVA SOLDIERS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE
RALLIED TO THE RLG. TWO OF THE RALLIERS ARE BEING
QUESTIONED AT THE MR-IV INTERROGATION CENTER.
C. DURING DECEMBER, SEVEN US CONTRACTOR AND ONE
RLAF AIRCRAFT REPORTED RECEIVING GROUND FIRE. MOST OF
THESE INCIDENTS WERE IN MR-I.

D. LPF CONTINUED TO REACT DEFENSIVELY IN COMMENT-
ING ON THEIR TWO RECENT BLATANT CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS,
THE DECEMBER 6 DOWNING OF RLAF HELICOPTER AND THE
DECEMBER 13 AMBUSH OF A CIVILIAN VEHICLE ENROUTE TO
LUANG PRABANG. IN A HARANGUE ON DECEMBER 30, RADIO
PATHET LAO ACCUSED THE RLG OF USING THE HELICOPTER IN
QUESTION TO FLY RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS AND ACCUSED FAR
OF STAGING THE AMBUSH AND FRAMING THE LPF.

III. ECONOMIC SITUATION
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A. FOLLOWING THE DECLINE IN PRICE OF GLUTINOUS
RICE DURING PREVIOUS WEEK, THE PRICE OF WHITE RICE
DECLINED LAST WEEK BY ABOUT 10 PERCENT. HOWEVER, THERE
WAS AN INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF MEAT AND SOME VEGETABLES,
RAISING COL 34 PERCENT ABOVE END 1972.

B. FEOF CONCLUDED ITS OPERATIONS FOR THE CY, WITH
NET SALES TO BANKS OF \$28.2 MILLION AND A CARRY-OVER OF
\$417,000. DONOR ADVISORY BOARD MET DECEMBER 27 UNDER
CHAIRMANSHIP OF FINANCE MINISTER SISOUK TO CONTINUE
DISCUSSIONS CY-74 FEOF AGREEMENTS IN LIGHT OF RECENT
IMF MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS. IT WAS DECIDED TO SET UP
FINANCE WORKING GROUP WITH PARTICIPATION BY PLAN
COMMISSIONER, IMF RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE AND USAID TO
REVIEW BUDGETARY AND MONETARY PROJECTIONS FOR CY-74 IN
RELATION TO FOREIGN EXCHANGE OUTLOOK AND REPORT ITS
FINDINGS TO DONORS.

C. GOJ AND RLG SIGNED \$550,000 DEVELOPMENTAL AID
AGREEMENT DECEMBER 27.
WHITEHOUSE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, PGOV, PINT, ECON, LA, RLG, LPF, JCCIA
To: STATE INFO BANGKOK
CANBERRA
JAKARTA
LONDON
MANILA
AM*MBASSY MOSCOW

NEW DELHI
OTTAWA
PARIS
PHNOM PENH
RANGOON
SAIGON
TAIPEI
TOKYO
WELLINGTON
HONG KONG
UDORN
PEKING
USUN
SECDEF
DIA
USIA
CINCPAC
CINCUSARPAC
CINCPACAF
CDR USSAG NKP
CDR AF ADVON UDORN
US*AO SAIGON
COMUSMACTHAI
DODSPE REP BANGKOK
DODSPECREP NKP
TFW KORAT
CHSPECATS BANGKOK
CDR JCRC NKP
KORAT
TFW UDORN
TFW UBON
SOW NKP
TFW KORAT
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